

CHAPTER A1

INTRODUCTION

A0101. BACKGROUND

a. The Navy has conducted occupational safety and health programs for many years. These programs gained special prominence after passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHACT) in 1970. The primary thrust of the OSHACT was directed at the private sector employer; however, Section 19 of the OSHACT and several subsequent Presidential Executive Orders directed Federal agencies to establish and maintain occupational safety and health programs. Requirements for such programs are contained in Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1960 (29 CFR 1960).

b. References A1-1 and A1-2 issued policy statements and outlined responsibilities for the implementation of the total safety and occupational health program for the Navy. The total safety and occupational health program includes all safety disciplines, such as systems safety, aviation safety, weapons/explosives safety and off-duty safety (recreation, public and motor vehicle), as well as occupational safety and health. Thus, the Navy Occupational Safety and Health (NAVOSH) Program is a major component of the total program.

c. Reference A1-3 was developed as a basic NAVOSH implementation document. It applies to both shore and afloat commands; however, many of the unique and specific situations associated with forces afloat were not fully addressed or taken into account. Consequently, this manual is intended as the primary NAVOSH resource document for implementing the NAVOSH Program for afloat commands.

d. Reference A1-4 established and implements a Mishap Investigation and Reporting Program and provides revised policy and procedures for aggressive mishap prevention, investigation, and reporting. This manual complements and supports the principles established in this reference.

A0102. PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION OF THIS MANUAL

a. The purpose of this manual is to provide commanding officers, safety officers, managers, supervisors, and workers for afloat commands with a document that gives the guidance and direction necessary to implement the NAVOSH Program.

b. This manual addresses all aspects of afloat NAVOSH Program management. In some instances, small ships (less than 300 personnel) may have to modify program management to suit their command. To ensure uniformity, group and squadron commanders may specify how small ships under their command are to implement the program management aspects of this manual (see paragraphs A0202e and A0202f).

c. This manual is organized into four sections.

(1) **Section A: NAVOSH Program.** This section outlines the overall administration, organizational, and training aspects of the NAVOSH Program including a statement of policy and a listing of responsibilities.

(2) **Section B: Major Hazard Specific Chapters.** This section outlines NAVOSH chapters which address specific hazards such as, asbestos control, heat stress, hazardous material control and management, radiation protection, electrical safety, and gas free engineering as well as tag-out and personal protective equipment. The objective of this section is to reduce to a manageable degree NAVOSH management requirements that are applicable to shipboard personnel. This section is addressed to personnel who would assist the commanding officer in NAVOSH management, e.g., safety officer, electrical safety officer, gas free engineer, hazardous material coordinator, and the medical department representative.

(3) **Section C: Surface Ship Safety Standards.** This section contains basic safety requirements that are applicable to surface ship activities and/or equipment. These precautions comprise the NAVOSH safety standards for surface ships required by reference A1-1. It may be necessary, when conducting operations and maintenance on specific systems or equipment, to consult other Navy publications such as the Naval Ships Technical Manual (NSTM), Naval Warfare Publications (NWP), technical/operating manuals, and equipment Planned Maintenance System (PMS) cards for additional safety precautions. This section is addressed to the individual deckplate sailor and his/her supervisor.

(4) **Section D: Submarine Safety Standards.** This section contains basic safety requirements that are applicable to submarine activities and/or equipment. These precautions provide similar guidance to submarines as Section C does for surface ships. These standards do not duplicate the safety precautions found in either the Standard Submarine Organization and Regulations Manual (SSORM), the Ships Systems Manuals (SSMs), or the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) applicable to submarines. These other standards augment Section D precautions.

A0103. APPLICABILITY

a. The provisions of this Manual apply to all Navy ship operations Afloat including United States Naval Ships (USNS) of the Military Sealift Command (MSC) manned by federal civil service mariners and military personnel. Due to the manning complexities for MSC ships, there may be some administrative procedures in this manual that will need to be tailored for MSC ship applications. These procedures shall, at a minimum, provide protection equal to or better than that provided by this manual. Aviation squadrons and other embarked units that are required to comply with reference A1-3 ashore shall coordinate safety program requirements with the ship. The provisions also apply to Marine Corps personnel embarked in the aforementioned vessels. Information contained within Volume I of this manual that specifically applies to submarines or that which exempts submarines is annotated as such. Shore activity service craft shall comply with the requirements of reference A1-3.

b. Under the statutory authority of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and Executive Order 12344, codified in Public Law 98-525, the

Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion is responsible for the safety of reactors and associated naval nuclear propulsion plants, and the control of radiation and radioactivity associated with naval nuclear propulsion plant activities, including prescribing and enforcing standards and regulations for these areas as they affect the environment and the safety and health of workers, operators, and the general public. Nothing in this manual shall affect the standards and requirements established by the Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion for areas under his cognizance. However, for areas other than those described above, such as asbestos control, heat-stress, electrical safety, and gas free engineering, the requirements of this manual apply to activities involved with naval nuclear propulsion.

c. This manual specifically addresses the identification and maintenance of safe and healthful conditions in afloat work places or occupational environments. Off-duty safety is not addressed. Some, but not all, of aviation safety (Chapters C7 and C12) and explosives safety (Chapter C14) are addressed.

A0104. REFERENCES AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

For matters of convenience and organization, references for a specific chapter appear at the end of each chapter. Special terms and their definitions appear in the Glossary at the end of Volume I of the manual.

A0105. NAVOSH MANUAL CHANGES

a. Users who identify a requirement for a modification to this manual shall initiate a change recommendation as follows:

(1) A proposed alteration to manual policy requirements shall be submitted by the identifying command to Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) (N45) via the chain of command.

(2) A proposed alteration to a safety standard should be submitted by an individual or command to the Naval Safety Center (NAVSAFECEN). The Naval Safety Center shall submit the proposed modification to CNO (N45) with a recommendation regarding incorporation of the modification into the manual.

(3) A proposed alteration to a health standard/criteria may be submitted by an individual or command to the Navy Environmental Health Center (NAVENVIRHLTHCEN) via the chain of command. NAVENVIRHLTHCEN shall submit the proposed modification to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) with a recommendation regarding incorporation of the modification into the manual.

b. Modifications to the manual shall be issued in the following manner:

(1) Alterations which are necessary for immediate incorporation into the manual and which cannot wait for the development of the next manual change shall be issued as advanced changes (A/Cs) by CNO (N45). These changes may be issued by message or letter depending upon the requirement for manual entry timeliness.

(2) Periodically when a large number of modifications to the manual are necessary, a change to the manual shall be issued by CNO (N45). These changes shall incorporate previously issued advanced changes.

(3) Changes to this manual shall be accomplished by page replacement.

A0106. TERMINOLOGY

The words shall, will, must, should, may, and can are used throughout this manual. Shall, will, and must are directive in nature and require mandatory compliance. Should is a strong recommendation, but compliance is not required. May or can, when used, are optional in nature and compliance is not required.

A0107. PRECEDENCE

In cases of conflicting safety standards among various directives and technical manuals, precedence shall be given to the directive promulgated by the highest authority and of the most recent issue date.

CHAPTER A1

REFERENCES

- A1-1. SECNAV Instruction 5100.10H, "Department of the Navy Policy for Safety, Mishap Prevention, Occupational Health, and Fire Protection Programs" (NOTAL)
- A1-2. OPNAVINST 5100.8G, "Navy Safety and Occupational Safety and Health Program" (NOTAL)
- A1-3. OPNAVINST 5100.23E, "Navy Occupational Safety and Health (NAVOSH) Program Manual" (NOTAL)
- A1-4. OPNAVINST 5102.1C, "Mishap and Investigation Reporting" (NOTAL)